

# ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

## Binge drinking

- Fourteen percent of Montana adults in 1997 indicated that on one or more occasions in the past month they consumed five or more alcoholic beverages.
- The prevalence of self-reported binge drinking has declined from 19% (+/- 2) in 1991 to 14% in 1997, a significant change.
- Three times as many males (22%) as females (7%) reported binge drinking.
- The prevalence of binge drinking declined with increasing age class; from 26% of adults aged 18 to 29 to 2% for adults aged 65 and older.
- Only 8% of adults with less than a high school education reported binge drinking within the past month, while 18% of respondents with some college education reported binge drinking, a significant difference.
- There was no apparent difference in reported binge drinking between white and non-white adults in Montana.

Note: Binge drinking is defined as consuming 5 or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion in the past month.

## Chronic drinking

- The self-reported prevalence of chronic drinking among Montana adults in 1997 was 3%.
- Five percent of males reported chronic drinking, while less than 1% of females reported chronic drinking.
- There were no discernable differences in the prevalence of chronic drinking among age classes, education levels, income classes, or race classes.
- The prevalence of self-reported chronic drinking has remained relatively constant from 1990 to 1997.

Note: Chronic drinking is defined as consuming 60 or more alcoholic drinks in the past month.

**Table 9. Alcohol Consumption, Montana Adults, 1997 (with 95% confidence intervals).**

	Binge Drinking				Chronic Drinking			
	Total No.	No.	%	CI (+/-)	Total No.	No.	%	CI (+/-)
All Adults: 1997	1772	228	14	(2)	1753	40	3	(1)
Sex:								
Male	736	159	22	(3)	726	37	5	(2)
Female	1036	69	7	(2)	1027	3	0.3	(0.4)
Age:								
18 - 29	292	75	26	(5)	286	8	3	(2)
30 - 44	568	85	16	(3)	571	11	2	(1)
45 - 64	529	60	12	(3)	520	15	3	(2)
65+	381	8	2	(2)	374	6	2	(2)
Education:								
<High School	177	13	8	(4)	174	5	2	(2)
High School	558	69	13	(3)	554	12	2	(1)
Some College	539	85	18	(4)	531	10	2	(1)
College Degree	495	61	13	(3)	491	14	3	(2)
Income:								
<\$10,000	95	9	11	(8)	93	2	3	(4)
\$10,000 - \$19,999	268	34	15	(5)	266	5	2	(2)
\$20,000 - \$34,999	515	85	18	(4)	509	9	2	(2)
\$35,000 - \$49,999	295	39	12	(4)	297	9	3	(2)
\$50,000+	236	35	18	(6)	236	6	2	(2)
Race:								
White, non-Hispanic	1646	207	14	(2)	1627	37	3	(1)
Non-white or Hispanic	119	19	16	(7)	119	2	2	(3)

**Figure 8. Alcohol Consumption by Montana Adults, 1990-1997.**

